

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

AUSTRALIA

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



FIRST CHOICE 5-21 day Fully Curated Experiences **From page 26**

BEST BUYS 3-15 day Flexible Guided Holidays **From page 58**

Outback Adventure



Highlights

Local Connection

Discover the beauty of the Australian outback over a Be My Guest dinner at Earth Sanctuary, plus tours with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and School of the Air.

Cultural Immersion

From Uluru to Kakadu, nothing puts life in perspective quite like glimpsing 40,000-year-old rock art with an Aboriginal guide.

Sustainable Footprints

Sleep soundly at Wilpena Pound Resort knowing your stay contributes directly to the local Adnyamathanha people and regional conservation projects.

Wildlife & Nature

Ancient red rock cliffs encircle desert palms at Kings Canyon, the spectacular heart of Australia and a place that will make your pulse race.

Field of Light (Optional Experience)

15 DAYS
23 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2024	2024 continued
Jun 11, 18	Aug 06, 13
Jul 09, 16	Sep 03

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and additional definite departure dates visit aatkings.com/naad or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

Dining

14 Full breakfasts B	8 Dinners with wine DW
1 Be My Guest dinner BG	1 Farewell Dinner FD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 12.30pm into Adelaide Airport

Day 15 – flights to depart anytime from Darwin Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price.

Return airport to hotel transfers are included in the holiday price.

Add-on

Ask us about adding a journey on The Ghan Expedition from Darwin to Adelaide to the end of your tour. (Code: NAADR)

1 Welcome to Adelaide

At once cultured yet cool, Adelaide attracts foodies, historians and art aficionados in equal measure. Explore at your leisure, before meeting a local gourmand to tour the city's legendary Central Market, before joining your Travel Director for a Welcome Dinner. **Hotel: Crowne Plaza. DW**

2 Adelaide – Flinders Ranges

The Clare Valley is the postcard-perfect setting for historic Knapppstein Enterprise Winery, producing sweet-scented rieslings and mineral-rich reds. The route north lands you at Hawker, the gateway to the Flinders Ranges. The best is yet to come, as you arrive at Wilpena Pound Resort in the shadows of a staggering natural amphitheatre. Your stay at this resort, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, contributes to the sustainable economic future of the local Aboriginal people. **Hotel: Wilpena Pound Resort. B DW**

3 Flinders Ranges – Port Augusta

The river red gums that envelop Hills Homestead will leave you lost for words. You get here on a leisurely walk along Wilpena Creek and continue to Wangarra Hill Lookout for views over the pound's peaks and curves. The drama is echoed as you climb to Pichi Richi Pass and the historic town of Quorn, where with a Local Guide, you'll hear the importance of this town in the ANZAC's Gallipoli Campaign, before easing into Port Augusta. **Hotel: Majestic Oasis Apartments. B DW**

4 Port Augusta – Coober Pedy

The main attraction in Woomera is a former rocket-testing site, today stocked with disused rockets and missiles. Speaking of space, you'll think you've landed on the moon as you travel through sun-baked country to Coober Pedy, known as 'the opal capital of the world'. Things get deep as you travel underground to visit the town's head-scratching subterranean facilities. **Hotel: Desert Cave. B DW**

5 Coober Pedy – Uluru

Emerge from your cave and cross the border into the Northern Territory. Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park has World Heritage status for a reason; under the gaze of the world's mightiest monolith, toast the end of the day with a glass of bubbles and a camera full of sunset photos. **Hotel: Desert Gardens, Ayers Rock Resort, 2 nights. B**

6 Uluru Sunrise – Kata Tjuta

Pre-dawn wake-up calls are worth it when you get to enjoy a Red Centre sunrise. Marvel at the majesty of Uluru as you circumnavigate its base or join a guided walk to Mutitjulu Waterhole. This landscape takes you back to the beginning of time, a sacred place among the Anangu people. More soul-salving landscapes await at Kata Tjuta, cool relief provided as you walk amid its domes to Walpa Gorge. **B**

7 Uluru – Kings Canyon

Another sunrise excursion awaits, with an optional tour to Bruce Munro's *Field of Light* – a blanket of 50,000 glowing bulbs. Next chance to stretch your legs is at Kings Creek Station, the largest exporter of wild camels in Australia. All your senses will be activated at Kings Canyon, 440-million years in the making. **Hotel: Kings Canyon Resort. B DW**

8 Kings Canyon – Alice Springs

Things are bigger in the NT outback, from the cattle stations to the MacDonnell Ranges, which stretch like a caterpillar's spine toward Alice Springs. Aside from its plethora of Aboriginal galleries and art stores, Alice makes Australian history for her 1872 Telegraph Station, one of 12 along the Overland Telegraph Line between Adelaide and Darwin. **Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton, 2 nights. B**

9 Alice Springs

Aboriginal culture is strong in Alice, as you'll find on your tour of the Alice Springs Desert Park. The other thing that's mighty is community spirit – it's essential when there are so few people scattered over such a vast area of land. Enter the Royal Flying Doctor Service, its base a museum that goes behind the scenes of the life-saving health services delivered to people in remote realms. One of the benefits of being this far-flung is the lack of light pollution. And at Earth Sanctuary World Nature Centre, this equates to epic stargazing. Your Be My Guest BBQ dinner here with the Falzon family is enlightening and uplifting. **B BG**

10 Alice Springs – Tennant Creek

1.3 million square kilometres – that's the eye-watering distance the School of Air's lessons are broadcast across daily. Watch a live session with children who would otherwise have no access to education. It's the devil

(well, his marbles) that awaits at Karlu Karlu, where precariously balanced boulders appear superglued together. **Hotel: Bluestone Motor Inn. B DW**

11 Tennant Creek – Katherine

Since the 1930s, the Daly Waters Historic Pub has been dishing up schnitzels, barramundi burgers and hearty steaks. The walls are lined with treasures that passers-by leave behind. 'Land of the Never Never' awaits at Mataranka. Visit a replica of the Elsey Homestead, used in 1982 Aussie drama *We of the Never Never*. Or wander palm-lined walkways to take a dip in the region's thermal springs. **Hotel: Contour. B DW**

12 Katherine – Kakadu National Park

The Jawoyn have called Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge home for millennia. You can feel their presence as you cruise the waterway, home to more than a few resident crocs. They'll make another appearance in Kakadu, when you explore Yellow Water Billabong. You don't need binoculars to spot the sea eagles, brolgas and kingfishers; they're everywhere you look. **Hotel: Mercure Kakadu Crocodile, Jabiru. B DW**

13 Kakadu – Darwin

Decisions, decisions: optional morning flight over Kakadu and Arnhem Land, or a sleep in. We vote for the former before you venture toward Ubirr and its ancient Aboriginal rock art. The night is yours in steamy Darwin, where the characters are as large as the shadows cast at sunset. **Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn, 2 nights. B**

14 Litchfield National Park

Nature rules today, your explorations into Litchfield National Park revealing magnetic termite mounds standing two metres tall. And then there are the waterfalls: Florence, for its dreamy cascades, and Wangi, where you can cool off in a crystal-clear waterhole (swimming is seasonal). See the NT capital in a new light when you venture out on a Darwin Harbour Cruise, your sparkling wine glass full to toast your last evening on this epic adventure. **B FD**

15 Farewell from Darwin

Time to bid adieu and head home to sort through all those photos. Even better are the memories; two weeks of wild outback adventures. **B**

